

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 DHA-02 COME-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /079 W
-----101858Z 127963 /45

O 101747Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3351
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 0661

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 & 2
TAGS: PINS, ES
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF SALVADORAN CITIZEN, ROBERTO POMA

REF: (A) STATE 29001, (B) SAN SALVADOR 0593, (C) STATE 30032

1. THE EMBASSY IS PUZZLED BY REFTEL (A) RESPONSE ON SEVERAL GROUNDS, MOST OF WHICH BOIL DOWN TO OUR NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF BASIC USG POLICY VIS A VIS COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. EMBASSY HAS ACTED IN THIS MATTER, AT LEAST FROM POINT WHEN POMA FAMILY APPROACHED US, FROM CONVICTION THAT USG'S "DETERMINED OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY" (AS DESCRIBED REFTEL) INCLUDED UNDERSTANDING OF INTERDEPENDENCE OF USG EFFORTS WITH ACTIVITIES OCCURRING IN OTHER COUNTRIES, NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVING US CITIZENS OR PROPERTY. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY STATED IN THE REFTEL WOULD SEEN TO FORECLOSE USG INTRUSION INTO A CASE SUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE RELEASING A PAL-ESTINIAN TRAVELING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGIERS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST ISRAELI CITIZENS IN GERMANY. YET AS RECENTLY AS LAST MONTH, THE USG DID SO INTRUDE.

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2. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO CLARIFY POINTS WHICH APPARENTLY WERE UNCLEAR IN OUR 0593. FIRST, THE THOUGHT BEHIND THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR USG INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE WAS NOT RPT NOT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ROBERTO POMA. THE EMBASSY BELIEVED THE COINCIDENCE OF OUR OFT-REPEATED USG NATIONAL INTEREST, COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, WITH

THE POMA FAMILY'S DESIRE TO REESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE PERPETRATORS OF A TERRORIST ACT AGAINST THEM, WAS BENEFICIAL TO THE USG INTEREST IN THAT IT MADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS AND INTENTIONS OF PROVEN TERRORISTS THAT WE WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE. SECOND, THE EMBASSY'S ORIGINAL SUGGESTION VIS A VIS RELOCATING THE TERRORISTS IN ALGIERS WAS NOT RPT NOT A REQUEST FOR THE USG TO APPROACH THE GOA WITH A FORMAL DEMAND FOR AN INVESTIGATION ON BEHALF OF A NON-US CITIZEN, OR A THIRD COUNTRY. RATHER WE EXPECTED UTILIZATION OF OTHER MORE DISCREET US TOOLS. THIRD, THE REFTEL A SUGGESTION THAT THE GOES MIGHT APPROACH "SAY MEXICO" OR ANOTHER "THIRD WORLD COUNTRY" TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE FROM ALGERIA IGNORES THE FACT THAT THE POMAS, FOR WHAT THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS VALID REASONS IF THE FAMILY'S MAIN CONCERN WAS THE SAFE RELEASE OF ROBERTO, HAD NOT TAKEN THE GOES INTO ITS FULL CONFIDENCE NOR SOLICITED ITS INTERVENTION AT THAT POINT. FINALLY, FROM A PRAGMATIC VIEWPOINT, THE REFTEL'S SUGGESTION THAT THE GOES APPROACH THE GOM TO CONTACT AND CONVINCE THE GOA TO PLACE THE RELEASED TERRORISTS UNDER SURVEILLANCE APPEARS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC, IF ONLY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE NECESSITY TO TAKE QUICK ACTION BEFORE THE TERRORISTS DEPARTED ALGERIA.

3. HOPEFULLY THESE CLARIFICATIONS ELIMNATE SOME OF THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS GENERATED BY OUR 953. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE EXACT MEANING OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF REFTEL. DOES THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 3 MEAN THAT THE USG, GIVEN "RESOURCE" AND "JUDGEMENTAL" DIFFICULTIES, DOES NOTHING IN THE FACE OF A KNOWN TERRORIST THREAT? TO STATE,

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AS THE REFTEL DOES IN THE SAME PARA, THAT "FUTURE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN EL SALVADOR REMAIN AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH BY GOES", IGNORES: (1) THE EVIDENCE WE ALREADY

HAVE THAT THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL OPERATION, GOING WELL BEYOND THE BORDERS OF EL SALVADOR OR THE REACH OF THE GOES (OR ITS "THIRD WORLD ALLIES"), AND (2) EVEN INTERNALLY, THE GOES SECURITY SERVICES ARE NOT EQUIPPED BY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE TO DEAL WITH SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. UNLIKE THE USG, THE GOES HAS NO KNOWN BEYOND-THE-FRONTIER REACH.

4. THE USG CONTINUALLY APPROACHES THE GOES, AND PRIVATE SALVADORAN CITIZENS, WITH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR SERIOUS NARCOTICS PROBLEM, WHICH AS OF TODAY IS A HAZARD OF MINIMAL LOCAL CONCERN. WE THEREFORE HAVE TO DESCRIBE THE DANGEROUS INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY PATTERN OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND THE THEORETICAL DANGER THAT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE THIS INSIDIOUS THREAT WILL HIT HERE. THE EMBASSY IS GRATEFUL THAT, UNTIL TODAY AT LEAST, THE GOES HAS BEEN

ABLE TO CONCEPTUALIZE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TODAY'S ACTIVITIES
CARRIED OUT BY NON-SALVADORAN CITIZENS IN COUNTRIES
BEYOND ITS FRONTIERS AND TOMMORROW'S DANGER OF THE SAME THING
HAPPENING HERE. THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT WE APPEAR IN-
CAPABLE OF THE SAME PROCESS OF FORESIGHT.

5. IN THE CASE OF ROBERTO POMA THE ABOVE COMMENTS ARE NOW ACADEMIC.
THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY THE POMA FAMILY AT 1700 HOURS FEB-
RUARY 9 THAT A MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE TERROR-
ISTS. THE ERP TOLD THE FAMILY THAT: (1) ROBERTO POMA DIED
ON JANUARY 29 (TWO DAYS AFTER HE "RESISTED" CAPTURE BUT
BEFORE THE FIRST RANSOM DEMAND--RELEASE OF PRISONERS--HAD BEEN
MET, AND FOUR DAYS BEFORE SECOND DEMAND--MONEY--HAD BEEN
DELIVERED); (2) HIS BODY WOULD NOT YET BE RETURNED "FOR REASONS
OF SECURITY".

LOZANO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANSAA00661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 & 2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0498
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770254/aaaabvob.tel
Line Count: 131
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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